

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /032 R

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L/EUR DHSMALL (DRAFT)

----- 002761

R 032307Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:PGOV, WB, GW

SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS IN ABORTION LAW CONTROVERSY
REF: A) USBERLIN 361 B) BONN 3366

DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES USBER'S THOUGHTFUL PRESENTATION
OF PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF ABORTION
LAW CONTROVERSY IN WAKE OF KARLSRUHE DECISION
(REFTEL A.) WE AGREE (PARA 6 REF A) THAT WE HAVE GAINED
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SOME BREATHING SPACE AND THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE
AT LEAST FOR SHORT TIME SIMPLY TO AWAIT WHAT THE
FRG AND FRENCH MIGHT SEEK TO WORK OUT AS COMPROMISE

OLUTION. WE ALSO AGREE THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY
TO MAINTAIN CONTINUING CONTACT WITH THE SENAT ON THIS
ISSUE TO REDUCE LIKELIHOOD THAT IT MIGHT CREATE PUBLIC
'CRISIS, WHERE NONE NEED EXIST. IT MIGHT ALSO BE GOOD
IDEA FOR BOTH EMBASSY AND MISSION TO CONTINUE LOW LEVEL
DIALOGUE WITH FRENCH IN WHICH WE SEEK TO WIN SOME
DEGREE OF FRENCH UNDERSTANDING FOR GERMAN NEED TO
ADOPT SOME SORT OF PROCEEDURE FOR DEALING WITH THIS
CASE AND FUTURE SIMILAR CASES (E.G. MITBESTIMMUNG)
WHICH ARE VERY LIKELY TO ARISE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ABORTION, LAW, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, COURT DECISIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE047489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RWB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750075-0013
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750387/aaaadauo.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USBERLIN 361, 75 BONN 3366
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEXT STEPS IN ABORTION LAW CONTROVERSY
TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE
To: USBERLIN BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006